



Runcorn Urban District



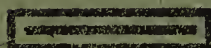
Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year ending 31st December, 1944.





Urban District Authority of Runcorn

ANNUAL REPORT 1944

BY
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Officials of Public Health Department :

Medical Officer of Health :
E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors :

**Senior* : ALLEN DALE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. Cert. R.S.I., Meat and Foods.

**Additional* : A. DUCKWORTH, M.S.I.A. (Cert. L'pool) Meat and Foods.
Joined R.A.M.C., May, 1940.

Temporary Additional : JOHN GREENAN, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.
R.S.I., Meat and Foods.
(**Also appointed Shops Inspector*).

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Runcorn.**

Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Health have now given authority for Annual Reports to show more detail.

My remarks in my 1943 report again refer, which in brief are as follows :—

“Speaking generally, the health of the Community has been satisfactory, especially considering war conditions, the latter have not decreased the efforts of all concerned in Civil Defence duties, and the essential work required in connection with Infectious Disease, Food, Milk, Water, Housing and Health Propaganda.

It is noted with the greatest satisfaction that the Government propose to deal by further Acts of Parliament with the many aspects of Public Health, these will apply, for example, to Housing, Town and Country Planning, Milk Supplies, Water Supplies, Sewage Disposal, Education and further facilities for medical treatment and social security.

The various excellent Voluntary Societies will, as before, be most useful agencies whereby members of the community will be aware of the contents of these various Acts of Parliament.

We must congratulate the National Council for Social Services with their many attached Societies, etc., for their excellent voluntary work, especially the Cheshire Community Council ; in addition the Council for Encouragement of Music and Art (C.E.M.A.), has, and in the future will have, an important bearing in bringing Music and Art to the people.”

The year 1943 has been a strenuous year, in that, with “First Aid” preventive measures only allowed, we have had an anxious time in carrying out our duties ; the sincere thanks to all concerned, my Council, Officials, Doctors and all Voluntary bodies, is extended to them by me, for only by team work and co-operation could a satisfactory state of affairs be sustained ; the various voluntary bodies, including the Central Council for Health, Education, C.E.M.A., W.E.A., B.R.C., and St. John’s Societies must be specially mentioned.

As the War draws to a close, may we wish from our hearts that the wonderful effort made for the common good by all concerned be extended into the peace time period and beyond.

In the "Standing Down" of the Civil Defence, Ambulance and Casualty Services, the sincere thanks to all—whole time and part-time members is extended ; their loyal, efficient service given with such good spirit has been an example we well can carry into future years and should not be lost.

The excellent support given for Civil Defence by the Chief Constable and all his staff, the County Medical Officer of Health and his staff, has been more than appreciated ; without their aid we could not have been ready for all emergencies, especially in the organising of Mutual Aid, a scheme again which could be well followed generally in the future.

The important subjects, for example, **Housing**, Diphtheria Immunisation, Personal Hygiene (personal and in the home) etc., are dealt with under their respective headings ; but Diphtheria Immunisation requires special mention here ; although our percentages of children immunised is one of the highest in the Country, there **must, however**, be **no** complacency in this important matter. All children 1 to 15 years of age, preferably just before a child reaches one year of age, should be properly immunised under the Councils **FREE SCHEME** ; in addition, another dose is required in five years time to still further lessen the risk of contracting this **Deadly Disease**. Parents and Guardians should face up to their responsibilities in this very important matter.

Dutton Isolation Hospital is still being used as the combined Hospital for my Urban and Rural Districts.

Housing.

Owing to war conditions housing conditions are, and will continue to cause some concern. It is hoped as soon as possible with Government aid and private enterprise to arrange for building to relieve overcrowding, those living in unfit houses and other houses required for any increase in the population or other purposes. A short and long term policy will be required, both fitting into a proper Town Planning Scheme which should include the eventual eradication of dense housing districts.

Water Supply.

The sufficiency and quality of the water supply to the Town has been satisfactory ; frequent tests are taken during the year by the Deputy County Analyst. The supply is constant and all dwelling houses have a main supply available to them.

Disposal of Sewage.

Some time ago you appointed a Sub-Committee to deal further with this matter aided by the Surveyor and other experts. The Ministry of Health are aware of any action which it is proposed to take. This matter should be dealt with as soon as possible

Health Propaganda.

Immunisation, Skin Diseases, Dietics and Cooking, also Venereal Disease have all received special attention ; leaflets, etc., have been circulated to all Voluntary Societies, Youth Organisations, etc. The Central Council for Health Education have been of great assistance in this connection.

Householders are again advised that when possible the "Black-out" arrangement on their windows should be removed so as to allow of sufficient light and especially ventilation ; in addition frequent "Spring Cleaning" of rooms will help in reducing the incidence of disease.

Infestation.

Infestations of children with head lice, which can not only convey infections, but through irritations and sometimes septic conditions lower the standard of health of the children affected, is being dealt with as efficiently as possible. The use of Lethane Oil (with hot lysol solution and Derbac comb) is strongly recommended as this has been found to be efficacious in the eradication of head lice. Derbac Soap with the Derbac comb has also been used.

Scabies.

The Scheme which was put into operation during the year 1942 in accordance with the Ministry of Health Scabies Order, is still in operation ; the treatment consisting of bathing and the application of Benzyl Benzoate. During the year the incidence of Scabies has not been of a severe character.

The co-operation and help of all concerned has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

(a)	Area (in acres)	2,904
(b)	Estimated Population (mid 1944)	21840
(c)	Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1944) according to the Rate Books	6,671
(d)	Rateable Value of the District	£195,670
(e)	Sum represented by one penny rate (approx.)	£774
(f)	Density of Population. Number of Persons per acre (estimated population mid 1944)	7.5
(g)	Average number of persons per inhabited house. (Estimated population mid 1944)	3.2

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M.	F.
LIVE BIRTHS...	Legitimate	440	235	205
	Illegitimate	16	9	7
		—	—	—
		456	244	212

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 20.6

STILL BIRTHS	11	6	5
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Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births : 0.51

DEATHS	289	153	136
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Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 13.2

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

				<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.</i>	
No. 29	Puerperal sepsis	....	....	Nil	....	Nil
No. 30	Other Puerperal causes	....	....	Nil	....	Nil
				—	—
Total	....	....	....	Nil	....	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births (30 deaths) Death Rate	65.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	63.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	125

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	39
Measles (all ages)	4
Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)....	3

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment.

The causes of the highest mortality in adults was :—

Heart Disease	....	....	....	86
Cancer	....	....	....	39

It is hoped when conditions allow for this, that consideration will be given to :—

- (1). More Nurses for nursing children at home (via the Cheshire County Council Welfare Scheme).
- (2). Accepting into Hospital certain severe cases of, for example, Whooping Cough, Measles and Enteritis in young children, especially where housing conditions are bad ; this would probably help to reduce our Infantile Mortality Rate ; the 30 deaths in Infants under One year of age were due to the following :—

Infantile Debility	....	....	....	4
Broncho Pneumonia	....	....	....	7
Gastric Enteritis	....	....	....	3
Premature Birth	....	....	....	11
Congenital Cardiac Disease	....	....	....	2
Convulsions	....	....	....	1
Spina Bifida	....	....	....	1
Marasmus	....	....	....	1

There were 148 deaths of persons over 65 years of age.

				M.	F.	Total
From 65-69	Number of Deaths	...	....	17	21	38
„ 70-79	„ „	....	....	42	31	73
„ 80-89	„ „	....	....	12	22	34
„ 90-99	„ „	....	...	1	2	3
„ 100 years	„ „	....	....	—	—	—

Causes of Sickness or Invalidity.

There have been no cases of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in this area during the year, and there is no evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

TABLE OF COMPARATIVE RATES.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Estimated Mid-Year Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality</i>
1941	22,830	18.8	12.08	64.9
1942	22,730	17.9	22.2	56.2
1943	22,450	17.66	13.22	53.24
1944	21,840	20.6	13.2	65.7

Inquests were held regarding 26 deaths, 7 of which were inward transfers.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

Runcorn is fortunate in that the Biological Institute of Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., is established in the town. The Institute examines pathological specimens and supplies serum for cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever, and anthrax.

(b) Ambulance Facilities are as follows :—

Three Public (exclusive of those detailed for A.R.P. duties.

(c) Home Nursing.

Runcorn District Nursing Association—3 Nurses and 1 Relief Nurse.

Number of Midwives practising in the District—5.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Child Welfare, etc., are under the direct control of the County Council.

School Clinics—29 High Street, Runcorn.

Tuesday a.m. ; Monday, Thursday, Friday (p.m.).

Infant Welfare Centre—Wednesday a.m. & p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic—Thursday a.m.

Post Natal Clinic—4th Thursday each month (p.m.).

Tuberculosis Dispensary Memorial Hospital Runcorn,
Thursdays (a.m. & p.m.).

Orthopaedic Clinic—Tuesdays & Fridays (a.m.).

- (e) War Nursery, Okell Street, Runcorn.

Under direct control of the County Council.

Open each day 8 a.m. (excepting Sundays).

Hospitals.

The Runcorn Victoria Memorial Hospital is a Voluntary Hospital with 32 beds, staffed by the Local Medical Practitioners and Visiting Consulting Surgeons from Liverpool.

It is primarily for the reception of surgical and accident cases.

- (b) **Smallpox Hospital.**

The Council has an arrangement with Warrington Corporation for the accommodation of Smallpox cases.

- (c) **Runcorn Isolation Hospital** is at present closed, the cases being accommodated in the Runcorn Rural Isolation Hospital at Dutton.

Puerperal Cases are provided for by the County Council.

Public Assistance Hospital is situated at Dutton.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances.

I (I)—WATER.

The water supply consists of a mixture of soft water from Lake Vyrnwy and hard Runcorn well-water. It is frequently tested, both Chemically and Bacteriologically, and for this purpose samples are taken approximately eight times a year. The analysts reports were very favourable.

(II)—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Most of the sewers empty into one large intercepting sewer which passes under the Manchester Ship Canal at No Man's Land. Another sewer dips under the Ship Canal at the Westerly boundary of the District and is discharged into the Mersey estuary.

There were no extensions of sewers during the year under review.

2. (I)—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

With the exception of 15 pail closets, all houses are on the water carriage system.

(II)—PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of house refuse is carried out by the Local Authority over the whole district on a weekly basis, and disposal is by tipping.

The collection of salvage material has developed considerably during the year.

iii.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Senior Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations 1935, or Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order 1926:—

Inspections made for all purposes	....	....	....	2,879
Nuisances dealt with	....	....	....	327
Notices served (Informal, re 123 houses)	....	....	....	107

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

Description	
Bakehouses (Factories)	.... 23
Canal Boats	.... 212
Common Lodging House	.... 6
Complaints	.... 226
Cowsheds	.... 17
Dairies and Milkshops	.... 36
Factories	.... 12
Food Shops	.... 46
Houses Inspected	.... 366
Infectious Disease	.... 181
Licensed Music Halls	.... 7
Manure Receptacles	.... 20
Middens and Earth Closets	.... 4
Miscellaneous	.... 184
Nuisance Abatement	.... 704
Offensive Trades	.... 2
Overcrowding	.... 73
Owners and Agents Interviewed	103
Piggeries	.... 10
Public Conveniences	.... 22
Rats and Mice Destruction	.... 10
School Conveniences	.... 13
Shops	.... 67
Slaughterhouse	.... 439
Vans, Tents, etc.	.... 15
Water Closets and Drains	.... 60
Water Samples (Domestic)	.... 13
Water Samples (Baths)	.... 8
Total 2,879	

iv. SHOPS.

During the year 113 inspections of shops were made, and apart from a few minor contraventions, were found to be in a satisfactory condition in relation to ventilation, temperature and sanitary accommodation.

The provision of the Employment of Young Persons Act and the Shops (Closing Hours) Act were observed fairly generally, and it was not found necessary to take action against any shopkeeper.

vi. SWIMMING BATHS.

The Urban District Council maintain a Swimming Bath which is supplied with water partly from a spring and partly from the Town's mains which is passed through a filtration plant charged with chlorine. It is tested for its purity and chlorine content at least once a month during the season, and its physical characteristics are very satisfactory.

vii. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The following particulars are given of action taken for the eradication of bed bugs :—

		<i>Infested</i>	<i>Disinfested</i>
1.	(a) Number of Council houses	3	3
	(b) Number of other houses	15	15
2.	The methods employed for freeing infested houses include application of strong vermicides and fumigants of high potency :—		
	(1) Vermicine.	(2) Zaldecide.	
	(3) Slatford Insecticide made by British Fumigants Ltd.		

4.—SCHOOLS.

During the year, inspection of Public Elementary Schools have been made ; the sanitary accommodation was found to be satisfactory and the water supply good and adequate in general,

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES					Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with Mechanical Power	....	....	....	....	15	—	—
Factories without Mechanical Power	....	....	....	....	20	—	—
Other Buildings (Building Engineering Construction)	....	....	....	....
TOTAL	....	....	....	....	35	—	Nil

2.—DEFECTS FOUND				Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	....	....	....	4	4	—	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) Defective	....	....	....	1	1	—	
TOTAL	....	....	....	5	5	—	Nil

Number of Outworkers' Lists :— 1 Contractors. 3 Outworkers.
Number of Underground Bakehouses in use :—Nil.

All Factories are entered in the register kept for the purpose.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Number of inhabited houses in Urban District, 31st December, 1944.	6,671
Density of houses (number of houses per acre)	2.29
Number of new houses erected during 1944	
By Local Authority	Nil
By other bodies or persons	—
Number of houses owned by Local Authority	302
1—Inspection of dwelling-houses during 1944 :—	
(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	336
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	479

4.—HOUSING ACT 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	73
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	82
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	515
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	35
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	8
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

INSPECTION OF CANAL BOATS.

Report by the Canal Boat Inspector.

During the year 1944 the number of Canal Boats inspected was 212. Generally speaking the boats were found in a satisfactory condition. Eight Notices were served for contraventions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Canal Boat Regulations, and the under-mentioned 18 defects have been given the necessary attention :—

Painting of cabins	....	....	....	6
Leaking decks/sides of cabins	....	....	....	5
Defective floor	....	....	....	1
Defective locker	....	....	....	1
Defective stovepipes	....	....	....	2
Defective bilge pumps	....	....	....	2
Infringement of Registration	....	....	....	1
				<hr/> 18 <hr/>

During the year 22 boats registered at Runcorn have been destroyed by sinking at Winsford, and the Registrations thereof have been cancelled and removed from our Register.

One boat has been re-registered, the original registration being cancelled.

The number of boats still on our Register is 549.

The number of persons occupying the 212 boats inspected during the year was :—

Men 300 : Women 54 : Children 45 :

The age group of children was :—

Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	6-10 yrs.	11-13 yrs.	Total
<hr/> 8	<hr/> 18	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 6	<hr/> 45

There have been no cases of infectious diseases on board a Canal Boat during the year under review.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY :—

During the year, 53 inspections have been made of dairies and milkshops, and inspections of farms in the district have periodically been carried out.

There are 95 Purveyors of milk registered with the Local Authority.

The premises inspected were invariably found in a clean condition.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER,
1936, 1938 and 1941.

Licences have been granted under the above Orders as follows :

To sell "Accredited Milk"	4
To Produce and Retail Pasteurised Milk	1
	—
	5
	—

MILK TESTING.

30 samples of milk were taken for Analysis under the Food and Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Order, 1936.

Report.

The samples consisted of :—	No.	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
(1). Raw ordinary milk	12	9	3
(2). Accredited Milk	9	3	6
(3). Pasteurised Milk	9	4	5
	—	—	—
	30	16	14

Necessary action was taken at the source of production with results which showed signs of improvement.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1936.

(1). During the year 46 visits were made to premises where foods are prepared or sold, and these were found to be satisfactory.

The undermentioned articles of food were inspected and taken from food shops under the Unsound Food provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1936 :—

Bacon	9 lbs.	Flour	36 lbs.
Butter	6 lbs.	Lentils ...	371 lbs.
Cheese	31 lbs.	Preserves	4 lbs.
Cooking Fats	63 lbs.	Tinned Beans....	39 tins
Cooked Meat	84 lbs.	„ Cocoa	10 lbs.
Rabbits	138 lbs.	„ Meat	189 lbs.
Fish (Wet) ...	389 lbs.	„ Milk	96 tins
Fish (tinned) ...	29 tins	„ Peas	14 tins

ABATTOIR.

(2) The taking over of the Abattoir in 1940 by the Ministry of Food as a slaughtering centre to supply the needs of 60 shops in the Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts has involved a considerable amount of the Sanitary Inspectors time in the work of anti-mortem and Post-mortem Inspections.

For this purpose 439 visits were made and all the 11,503 animals slaughtered were inspected.

The animals inspected consisted of:—

Bulls	....	....	116	Cow heifers	....	....	183
Bullocks	...	....	268	Calves	....	....	1,755
Cows	....	....	944	Sheep & lambs	....	....	7,769
Heifers	....	....	383	Pigs	....	....	85
Total			....	11,503 animals.			

Of the cows (944) inspected the number found to be suffering from infection of the udder was:—

(1).	Tuberculosis	196	=	20.7%.
(2).	Mastitis	141	=	14.8%.

The above figures are interesting having regard to milk infection.

The amount of meat and offals condemned was:—

<i>For Tuberculosis.</i>	<i>For other causes.</i>
16 tons, 6 cwts. 2 qrs.	7 tons. 18 cwts. 1 qr.
Total :—24 tons. 4 cwts. 3 qrs.	

In addition $3\frac{1}{4}$ cwts ^{were} ~~was~~ taken from shops and condemned making the total of meat and offals condemned 24 tons, 8 cwts.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<i>Cattle exclud- ing Cows & Heifers</i>	<i>Cows and Heifers</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	384	1510	1755	7769	85
Number Inspected	384	1510	1755	7769	85
All Diseases except Tuberculosis : Whole carcasses condemned	1	11	12	9	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	169	480	5	143	27
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tubercu- losis	41.4%	31.7%	.9%	1.9%	32.9%
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	30	2	Nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	43	515	Nil	Nil	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	11.4%	36.09%	.01%	Nil	7.05%

A. DALE, Senior Sanitary Inspector and
Meat and Food Inspector.

ADULTERATIONS, ETC.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADULTERATION ACT.

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Cheshire County Council for the following report of the work carried out by his department in the Runcorn Urban District under the Foods and Drugs Act during the year 1944 :—

Samples obtained during the year ending 31st December, 1944.

<i>Name of Sample</i>	<i>No. obtained</i>	<i>No. adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.</i>
Barley	1	—
Baking Powder	1	—
Butter	2	—
Boracic Ointment	1	—
Cheese	2	—
Cooking Fat	2	—
Cocoa	3	—
Cream of Magnesia Tablets	1	—
Eucalyptus Oil	1	—
Ginger Ground	1	—
Gravy Salt	1	—
Groats Patent	1	—
Jam	1	—
Meat Paste	1	—
Margarine	2	—
Milk	44	8
Mustard	1	—
Pepper	1	—
Pudding Mixture	1	—
Sage & Onion Stuffing	1	—
Soup Powder	1	—
Treacle	1	—
Zinc Ointment	1	—
	<hr/> 72	<hr/> 8

Of the 44 samples of Milk taken, 8 samples did not reach the required standard. In three cases legal proceedings were taken for extraneous water and deficient in fat, and a penalty was imposed in each case.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

The prevailing varieties of notifiable diseases during the year were mainly confined to Measles and Whooping Cough.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME.

My Council's free scheme is still available so that Parents & Guardians can have their children properly immunised against the deadly disease Diphtheria.

All children One to Fifteen years of age, PREFERABLY JUST BEFORE ONE YEAR OF AGE, should be properly immunised against Diphtheria; in addition a "Booster Dose" is required in five years time. This can be obtained Free of Cost, through the Parents' or Guardians' own Doctor; failing this, at Special Clinics at Schools or Welfare Centres, which will be organised as required.

Propaganda on the above has been continuously carried out aided by the Press and the Central Council for Health Education, but still some children are found on admission to Hospital to have not been immunised, and some have suffered from very serious complications as a result.

The following figures speak for themselves :—

Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1939—157

Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1944— 15
in the Runcorn Urban District.

Number of children immunised in 1939—50%

Number of children immunised in 1944—90%.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1944.

The following table includes particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases in the area during the year 1944 :—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	47	35	—
Whooping Cough	49	—	—
Diphtheria	15	15	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—
Measles	159	1	—
Pneumonia	5	—	—
Ophthalmia			
Neonatorium	1	1	—

* An analysis of the total notified cases under the following age groups are given below :—

Disease	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 to over
Scarlet Fever	47	—	1	4	2	2	23	9	4	2	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	49	10	2	5	5	7	17	3	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	15	—	—	—	3	—	4	3	2	2	—	1	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Measles	159	7	22	36	29	2	54	7	—	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2
Ophthalmic Neonatorium	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Antitoxin is provided free to Medical Practitioners and can be obtained at any time from the local laboratories of Messrs. Evan Sons Lescher & Webb. In few diseases is prompt treatment as necessary as in Diphtheria.

Swabs from suspected cases of Diphtheria are examined at Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb's laboratory.

Swabs examined during 1944 :—

(Positive, 4 ; Negative 50).

Runcorn Urban District.

TOTAL DEATHS.

CAUSES OF DEATH						Males	Females
All Causes	....	....	....	....	....	153	136
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
5. Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
6. Tuberculosis, Respiratory System	....	....	....	....	....	1	6
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	—	—
9. Influenza	....	....	....	....	....	—	2

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Males	Females
10.	Measles	....	....	3	1
11.	Acute Poli-myelitis and Polioencephalitis	....	....	—	—
12.	Acute Infantile Encephalitis	....	....	1	1
13.	Cancer of b. cav. and Oesoph (M)	....	....	3	3
	Uterus (F)	....	....	—	—
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	....	....	6	1
15.	Cancer of Breast	....	....	—	6
16.	Cancer of all other sites	....	....	13	7
17.	Diabetes	....	....	1	1
18.	Intra-Cran. Vascular Lesions	....	....	8	15
19.	Heart Disease	....	....	46	40
20.	Other Disease of Circ. System	....	....	9	7
21.	Bronchitis	....	....	11	3
22.	Pneumonia	....	....	9	5
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	....	....	2	8
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	....	....	2	—
25.	Diarrhoea, under 2 years	....	....	1	2
26.	Appendicitis	....	....	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	....	....	3	5
28.	Nephritis	....	....	2	4
29.	Puerperal and Post-abort. Sepsis	....	....	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	....	....	—	1
31.	Premature Birth	....	....	7	6
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infant Disease	....	....	4	4
33.	Suicide	....	....	4	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	....	....	1	1
35.	Other Violent Causes	....	....	5	2
36.	All other Causes	....	....	11	11
Deaths of Infants under 1 year.					
{ Total				15	15
{ Legitimate				13	15
{ Illegitimate				2	—
LIVE BIRTHS					
{ Total				244	212
{ Legitimate				235	205
{ Illegitimate				9	7
STILLBIRTHS					
{ Total				6	5
{ Legitimate				6	5
{ Illegitimate				—	—
POPULATION				Estimated 21,840.	
Comparability Factor—Not Available for 1944.					

**Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal
Death-rates and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in
the year 1944.**

**England & Wales, London, 126 Great Towns & 148 Smaller
Towns (Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).**

	Run corn Urban District	Eng- land and Wales	126 County Boro's & Great Towns inclndg London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Admini- strative County
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
BIRTHS—					
Live Births	20.6	17.6††	20.3	20.9	15.0
Still Births	0.51	0.50††	0.64	0.61	0.42
DEATHS—					
All Causes	13.2	11.6††	13.7	12.4	15.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04
Diphtheria	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01
Influenza	0.09	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.08
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
Measles	0.18	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	65.7	46†	52	44	61
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.38	4.8	7.3	4.4	10.1
(A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths).					
†Per 1,000 related births.					
††Rates per 1,000 Total population.					
	Rates per 1,00 Civilian Population.				
NOTIFICATIONS—					
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid fever	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01
Cerebral Spinal fever	0.00	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.06
Scarlet fever	2.15	2.40	2.41	2.67	1.57
Whooping Cough	2.24	2.49	2.49	2.29	2.90
Diphtheria	0.68	0.58	0.67	0.69	0.31
Erysipelas	0.18	0.29	0.32	0.28	0.37
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	7.28	4.16	4.51	3.94	2.98
Pneumonia	0.22	0.97	1.13	0.82	0.93

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :—

(a) Notifications :—

Puerperal Fever) 0.00	10.34	13.13	9.25	(3.61
Puerperal Pyrexia					

††14.14

(b) Maternal Mortality—England and Wales.

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other
0.31	0.09	0.28	1.25

Abortion : Mortality per million women aged 15-45
—England and Wales :—

No. 140 With Sepsis	No. 141 Without Sepsis
25	7

††Including Puerperal Fever.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS.

No person employed in the milk trade was found suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, nor was it found necessary to compulsorily remove to hospital any person suffering from Tuberculosis.

Particulars of the 21 new cases of Tuberculosis and of the 7 deaths from the disease in the area during 1944 :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 4	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1
5-14	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15-24	—	2	—	1	—	4	—	—
25-34	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
35-44	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
45-54	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	7	6	2	6	2	4	—	1

All of the 7 Deaths were Notified Cases.

Specimens of Sputum from suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis are examined at the Cheshire County Council's Laboratory.

During the year 1944, the following Sputums were dealt with :

Total No. of Sputums.... 4

(Negative, Nil. Positive 4).

Tuberculosis Cases on Register — Comparative Rates :

Year	Estimated Population	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Total All Forms	No. per 1,000 of Population
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
1941	22,830	37	29	40	88	154	6.7
1942	22,730	49	35	41	92	176	7.7
1943	22,450	50	35	50	45	180	8.01
1944	21,840	53	35	50	49	187	8.5

